

**Rural District of Meriden.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1937,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

**Warwickshire Combined Districts.**

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1938.



1, MILVERTON HILL,  
LEAMINGTON SPA,  
June, 1938.

**To the Meriden Rural District Council.**

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the report for the year 1937, relating to the sanitary condition of the District and the health of its inhabitants.

The District, owing to its position between the cities of Birmingham and Coventry continues to develop on Urban lines in the areas bordering on those cities, and the problems of local government naturally vary in character in sympathy with these changes.

I have included, owing to the kindness of Mr. Pickering, a report of the work of his department, as it was felt that this would be of interest to the members of the Council.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, also to my colleagues for their ready help.

Much of the work in connection with this Report has fallen to Mr. Kenyon, and I wish to thank him for his willing assistance and advice at this and all other times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF OF THE  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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*Sanitary Inspector's Department :*

FRANCIS T. KENYON, M.R.San.I., Cert. R.S.I., Meat,  
etc.

WILLIE OLDHAM, C.R.S.I., Cert.R.S.I., Meat, etc.

C. F. UNDERWOOD, Clerk.

*Surveyor and Engineer :*

HERBERT PICKERING, C.R.S.I., M.I.M. & Cy.E., Cert.  
R.S.I., Meat, Etc.

*Public Analysts :*

HILL & RIGBY.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.



# Meriden Rural District.

## A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

*Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	61,775
*Population, Resident Census (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	24,709
Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	27,540
*Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	5,791
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	7,682
*Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	5,910
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£188,380
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£800

## 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births { Legitimate	453	217	236	Birth Rate	16.9
{ Illegitimate	11	7	4		
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...		36
Deaths ... ..	294	157	137	Death Rate	10.7
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate	...	...	...		1.02
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...		10.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes			...	1 —
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...		45
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...		46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...		—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		—
,,     Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...		3
,,     Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...		3

\*As constituted June 30th, 1932.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

*Vide* Table II.

*Population.*—The Registrar General furnishes a figure for the Resident Population in the middle of 1937 of 27,540 ; this compares with the Census figure of 24,709, and is 450 more than the estimate for 1936.

The increase is largely due to the rapid development of the district on the boundaries of the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry.

The "natural increase," that is, excess of births over deaths was 170.

*Births.*—There were registered 464 births, giving a rate of 16.9 per 1,000 population. This rate is lower than that for 1936, which was 17.5, but higher than that for 1935, viz. 16.6.

*Deaths.*—294 in number, giving a death-rate of 10.7 per 1,000 population. This is much the same as the rate for 1936, which was 10.4.

The Death-rate adjusted for comparison with that of England and Wales, viz., 12.4, was 10.9 per 1,000.

The various causes of death are set out in Table IV., but the following causes are worthy of special mention:—Influenza 12, Apoplexy 17, Heart Disease 48, Bronchitis 11, Pneumonia 15, Tuberculosis 12, Bright's Disease 11, Congenital Causes 9, and Violent Deaths 22. As regards Cancer the following are the number of deaths tabulated since 1918:—

1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	
25	21	23	28	23	26	23	28	31	
1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
24	31	26	36	29	33	40	43	34	45

It will be seen that the number of deaths from Cancer is above the average of the past 18 years; there is undoubtedly an increase though this may in part be due to improved facilities for diagnosis.

Of these 45 deaths, 25 were in males and 20 in females.

The death-rate from Cancer per 100,000 population was 163, and this compares unfavourably with the figures for the past 10 years, which are as follows:—

1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
116	147	123	210*	75*	129	158	161	125	163

The total number of deaths from Cancer in the Combined District population of 176,920 was 268, and the figures per 100,000 population for the past 10 years are as follows:—

1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
125	124	151	142	152	155	146	146	148	151

\*These figures are not comparable owing to alteration of population due to boundary changes.

*Infantile Mortality.*—21 deaths, giving a rate of 45 per 1,000 births, as compared with 20 and 42 in 1936 and as contrasted with the figure for England and Wales, which was 58.

9 deaths were due to conditions prior to birth.

The number of deaths from violence was 22 as against 26 in 1935.

## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

### 1. *Public Health Staff.*

A complete list is given at the beginning of this report.

### 2. *Nursing in the Home.*—None provided.

6.—*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following table shows the extent to which the County Scheme has been utilised for the free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	73	130	203
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	4	25	29
			232

### 7. *Legislation in force in the District.*—No change.

8. *Hospitals.*—This was fully dealt with in the Report for 1930, subject to alteration as to treatment of Smallpox as noted in the Report for 1934.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*—Reference to the use made of the Council's Ambulance is made in the Report of the Surveyor which follows.

## C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections, and in the Sanitary Inspector's reports will be found full details on this matter, as well as on the premises controlled by Bye-Laws.

1. (i) WATER.—The district is favourably situated in respect of piped supplies of water. Of the 24 parishes, 11 have between 80 and 95% of the dwellings supplied ; 7 have between 25 and 75% and the remaining 6 parishes depend largely on separate wells. The mains are continually being extended.



(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Twelve parishes have main sewerage and schemes are under consideration for Balsall and Berkswell, Fillongley and Meriden.

2. (i) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Cases of pollution of streams by drainage from dwellings and farm premises have been dealt with.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—A few pail-closets have been converted to waterclosets.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No change.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.—See table I.

(iv) SHOPS (Shops Act, 1934).—No action.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—No action.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

(a) Number of houses infested :—

(1) Council Houses none.

(2) Other Houses, 6.

(b) Number of houses disinfested 6.

(c) Methods used for freeing infested houses :  
Fumigation and spraying (proprietary materials).

(d) Methods used on transfer to Council Houses,  
as above.

(e) Whether disinfestation by Local Authority or  
Contractor : Local Authority.

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal are dealt with fully in the report of the Engineer and Surveyor which follows.

SCHOOLS.—The Elementary Schools of the District have continued to receive inspection as occasion has arisen.

## D. HOUSING.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	499
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	499
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	273
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	273



(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	119
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	89

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	78
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## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

### A.—*Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	—

### B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

### C.—*Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	5

### D.—*Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	1

## HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	44
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	44
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	264
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	82
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	484

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... .. —

#### 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

distinguishing those built in the last two years and held under (1) Part III. of the Housing Act, 1925, (2) Part II. of the Housing Act, 1925, and (3) other powers.

##### COUNCIL HOUSES.

Allesley ... ..	6	1919 Act.
Barston ... ..	8	1924 Act.
Balsall ... ..	42	„
Berkswell ... ..	20	„
Bickenhill ... ..	8	„
Coleshill ... ..	20	„
Coleshill ... ..	8	1930 Act.
Hampton ... ..	12	1924 Act.
Meriden ... ..	8	1919 Act.
Nether Whitacre ... ..	6	1924 Act.
Over Whitacre ... ..	4	„
Water Orton ... ..	20	„

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#### (b) *Housing Conditions.*

1. *General Observations.*—This question was discussed fully in the Report for 1930, to which reference may be made.

2. *Sufficiency of the Supply of Houses.*—There are now 162 Council houses in the district, but it is certain that the demand still exists.

3. *Overcrowding.*—Details are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—The survey of unfit houses was completed during the year and as a consequence the slum clearance programme was extended to 207 houses.

Representations have been made to the Council during the year of 41 dwellings. Demolition orders were made in respect of 21 dwellings and a closing order for 1. Undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted in 13 cases and undertakings to repair in 6.

5. *Unhealthy Areas.*—Representations were made of 26 clearance areas, comprising 78 houses. Clearance Orders were made for all the houses represented and the orders have been confirmed without objection in respect of 31 houses and after objection and enquiry in respect of 47.

6. *Bye-Laws*.—These appear to have been adequate. but they are being reviewed as required by the Public Health Act, 1936.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—Mr. Kenyon continues to take a keen and personal interest in the conditions under which milk is being produced in the District, and it is pleasing to note that in many cases at any rate he has succeeded in communicating his enthusiasm to those producers with whom he comes in contact.

#### *Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.*

The register of cowkeepers and the survey of dairy farms show us follows for 1936 :—

Cowkeepers registered	...	...	...	405
Wholesale	...	...	...	309
Retailers	...	...	...	63
Butter only	...	...	...	33
Cows in milk	...	...	...	5,832

269 Cowsheds were inspected during the year and improvements effected at 28 farms, as follows :—

Cowshed lighting improved	...	...	...	30
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	20
Floors and channels relaid	...	...	...	26
Cooler-places made or improved	...	...	...	9
Drainage improved	...	...	...	13
New (model) cowsheds erected	...	...	...	2
Sterilizers, for utensils, provided	...	...	...	13
General repairs	...	...	...	18
Polluted wells cleansed	...	...	...	2
				133

This makes a total, to date, of improvements comprising 33 new cowsheds and 866 other items.

In addition to the 63 cowkeepers mentioned above who are also retailers, there are 47 purveyors of milk registered, 13 of whom bring milk into the district from outside.

13 Unregistered cowkeepers were found during the year ; 4 others applied in proper form to be registered.



*Clean Milk.*

Three farms are licensed for tuberculin-tested milk and 109 are on the accredited roll. During the year 12 cow-keepers qualified newly for the latter. Details of samples will be found in the Inspector's report.

*(b) Meat and Other Foods.**Inspection.*—

The Report of the Inspector gives full details of inspections and meat condemned, and the work is summarized in the following table :—

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	<i>Cattle ex- cluding</i>		<i>Sheep and</i>		
	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	341	57	79	469	1563
<i>All diseases except Tu- berculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	5	8	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	7	1	—	—	6
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	2.05	1.75	6.32	1.70	.63
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	2	2	—	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	37	8	—	—	88
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	11.40	17.54	—	—	6.20

*Slaughterhouses in use.*

	1920.	Jan., 1937.	Dec., 1937.
Registered ...	13	16	16
Licensed ...	—	5	5

Condemned meat is disposed of under the supervision of the Inspector.



(c) The Bakehouses are subject to inspection, and are kept mostly in a cleanly condition.

(d) The Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts are administered in the District entirely by the Officers of the County Council.

## VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Indicence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1929.*

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1930	...	—	42	26	8	32	—	1
1931	...	—	21	39	1	36	—	1
1932	...	—	8	29	—	52	1	1
1933	...	—	18	35	—	63	—	2
1934	...	—	59	77	—	58	—	1
1935	...	—	56	78	—	55	—	1
1936	...	—	69	118	—	36	—	1
1937	...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1937.

*Smallpox.*—No cases were notified in 1937.

*Diphtheria.*—98 cases were notified during 1937. Of these 31 occurred at Arley, 4 in one family and 2 in each of two families. 17 at Coleshill of which 13 were in St. Gerard's Homes, 13 at Balsall and Berkswell, 10 at Water Orton, 3 in one family and 2 in another, 7 at Meriden, 5 at Keresley, 3 in one family, and 4 at Over Whitacre of which 3 were in one family.

There were 7 deaths, and 86 cases were removed to Hospital.

As far as I am aware, the SCHICK TEST has not been used in the District.

*Immunisation.*—Arrangements have been made for the supply to Medical Practitioners of material for Immunisation against Diphtheria, but it is too early yet to report on the success or otherwise of this measure.

The Council supply Diphtheria Antitoxin in necessitous cases through Mr. Crooke, Chemist, High Street, Coleshill. In case of emergency, out of hours, a supply may be obtained from Mr. Kenyon, Inspector, Coleshill. Tel. Coleshill 35.

*Scarlet Fever.*—46 cases were notified. Of these 14 occurred at Arley, 10 at Coleshill, 5 being at Coleshill Hall, 4 at Barston, 3 in one family, and three each at Keresley, Water Orton, Castle Bromwich and Corley Moor, the cases in the latter being all in one family, and the rest were distributed throughout the District. There were 2 deaths and 38 cases were removed to Hospital.

I have no record of the DICK TEST being used, or of any method of artificial immunisation.

*Enteric Fever.*—No cases notified.

*Puerperal Fever.*—1 case was notified; there was one death.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*—3 cases were notified.

*Pneumonia.*—57 cases were notified, and there were 15 deaths.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—1 case was notified.

*Encephalitis Lethargica.*—No case notified.

*Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.*—No cases were notified.

*Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.*—No action was taken or required.

*Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.*—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the prevalence of these diseases.

Fillongley, 1st to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Fillongley, 28th June to 12th July. Measles.

Coleshill Parochial, June 1st to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Lea Marston Boys, 2nd to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Curdworth, 8th to 15th Feb. Chicken-Pox.

Keresley C. Infants, 1st March to Easter Holidays. Measles.

Hampton-in-Arden, Girls and Infants, 19th March to Easter Holidays. Whooping Cough.

Water Orton C., 24th May to 7th June. Measles.

Castle Bromwich Infants, 15th June to 5th July. Measles.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

There were 8 deaths from Influenza.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1
1	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—
5	...	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
15	...	...	...	2	4	...	—	2	...	1
25	...	...	...	1	3	...	—	1	...	—
35	...	...	...	3	4	...	1	1	...	—
45	...	...	...	1	1	...	—	—	...	—
55	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	2	...	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	8	12	...	2	4	...	2

26 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 20 being of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 6 of other tuberculous disease. The figures since 1920 are as follows :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Cases	45	27	40	36	27	27	26	34	31
Deaths	11	13	11	9	7	24	20	13	12
	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Cases	33	33	23	21	36	21	35	27	26
Deaths	23	16	9	5	18	12	16	7	12

12 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis ; 9 were of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 of other forms of tuberculosis.

*Treatment.*—12 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 6 were discharged.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis, and after removals of tuberculosis patients where possible, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector.

Lists of cases of Tuberculosis notified have been sent weekly to the County Medical Officer.

## CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing of special note.



## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for 1937.

## WATER ANALYSIS.

	Passed.	Unsatisfactory.	Condemned.	Total.
New Wells ...	9	1	1	11
Old Wells ...	2	2	13	17
Spring ...	1	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	12	3	14	29
	—	—	—	—

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Inspections of cowsheds during the year have numbered 269 and conditions have on the whole, been found to be satisfactory.

The majority of the improvements effected have been at the premises of cowkeepers wishing to qualify for accredited licences. Two new sheds have been built and in existing sheds floors have been re-laid in concrete, with concrete or tubular divisions, lighting and ventilation increased and drains piped instead of running on to yards. Cooler places have been re-made or improved and steam sterilizers provided. The only form of sterilizer now recommended is the pressure-boiler and steam chest.

## CLEAN MILK.

The number of accredited producers has risen during the year by 12, to 109 and one producer of tuberculin-tested has been added, making 3 of that grade.

The milk from these 112 dairies goes to the following places:—

Birmingham	...	...	...	...	...	88 dairies.
Coventry	...	...	...	...	...	11 „
Nuneaton	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Rugby	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Solihull	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Retailed within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	8 „

Samples of milk for methylene-blue and b.coli tests were taken to the number of 38. Twenty-one were satisfactory and 17 unsatisfactory. No samples were taken for tubercle bacilli.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The numbers of registered and licensed slaughterhouses remain the same, 16 registered and 5 licensed. They are distributed as follows: Registered, Allesley 1, Arley 1, Berkswell 2, Bickenhill 1, Castle Bromwich 1, Coleshill 2, Corley 2, Fillongley 1, Hampton-in-Arden 1, Keresley 1, Meriden 1, Over Whitacre 1, Water Orton 1; Licensed, 3 at Balsall and one each at Water Orton and Fillongley.

Several of the registered slaughterhouses and the one knacker's yard are unsatisfactory and if the Food and Drugs Bill becomes an Act should be closed under the powers which will then be available.

665 Inspections of slaughterhouses were made during the year and they were found, in general, to be well kept.



Four slaughtermen were newly licensed during the year, the licences to run, with those previously issued, to end of 1939.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

Notices of slaughter during 1937 numbered 323, relating to 30 beasts, 579 pigs and 298 sheep and lambs.

Examination is on the lines laid down in Memo. 62 (Foods) and includes incision of various glands as routine. The following carcasses were inspected :

Beasts	...	...	...	...	398
Pigs	...	...	...	...	1,563
Sheep and lambs			...	...	469
Calves	...	...	...	...	79
					<hr/>
					2,509
					<hr/>

Condemned for reasons stated :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	Beasts	...	...	4
			Parts of beasts	...	...	3
			Beast heads	...	...	21
			Pigs	...	...	9
			Pigs heads	...	...	72
Injuries	...	...	Various organs	...	...	71
			Parts of cow.			
			Parts of pig.			
			4 Sheep.			
			Head and tongue.			
Actinomycosis	...	...	3 Calves.			
Immature	...	...	Sheep.			
Peritonitis	...	...	Calf.			
Pneumonia	...	...	Pig.			
Joint-ill	...	...	Calf.			
Fever	...	...	Lamb.			
Decomposed	...	...	Pig.			
			2 Sheep.			
			Pig.			
			Pig.			
			11 Items.			

Warnings were issued to butchers on the instructions of the committee in relation to (1) diseased head and lungs of beast not notified ; (2) cow slaughtered at a farm without notice ; (3) unfit calf not notified.

One suspected outbreak of swine fever found in the course of meat inspection was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and another case was not so confirmed.

Suspected anthrax in the carcase of a sow was not confirmed but the suspicion was declared to be a reasonable one.

Anthrax was confirmed, apart from meat inspection, in a heifer and also a bullock carcase. These animals had died and their carcasses were burnt in the fields where they fell.

#### TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

27 Cows were dealt with in this district, 11 going to butchers and 16 to knackers.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfections numbered 157. For cancer 20, tuberculosis 12, scarlet fever 45, diphtheria 78, puerperal fever 1 and cerebro-spinal meningitis 1. Bedding was destroyed in three cases.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Two notices of want of limewashing at factory bakehouses were received and dealt with. No other nuisances arose.

## BAKEHOUSES.

An insanitary, wooden bakehouse was reported and after a considerable lapse of time to enable other premises to be found, was closed down.

## NUISANCES.

The following were dealt with :—

Accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	...	2
Choked and defective drains	...	...	...	...	52
Closets defective	...	...	...	...	10
Cesspool overflowing and defective	...	...	...	...	36
Caravans, Nuisances at	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness	...	...	...	...	16
Defective chimney flue	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	3
Effluvium nuisance	...	...	...	...	1
Foul ditches	...	...	...	...	8
Insanitary sinks	...	...	...	...	3
„ privies	...	...	...	...	5
„ ashpits	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
„ light in dwellings	...	...	...	...	3
„ ventilation in dwellings	...	...	...	...	5
Pigeons so kept	...	...	...	...	1
Polluted wells	...	...	...	...	6
Prevalence of rats	...	...	...	...	3
Pig keeping	...	...	...	...	3
Rainwater conductors defective	...	...	...	...	15
Roofs defective	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous dwellings	...	...	...	...	11
Want of ashes receptacles	...	...	...	...	9
„ drainage	...	...	...	...	6
„ water supply	...	...	...	...	6
Water in cellar	...	...	...	...	1

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220

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## HOUSE INSPECTION.

273 Houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Of these, 119 were found to be unfit and were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health as Clearance Areas (78 houses) and Demolition or Closing Orders (41).

89 Houses were dealt with as requiring repair.

## OVERCROWDING.

The number of overcrowded families remaining on record has fallen from 124 to 44 during the year.

One family has been rehoused by the Council, many cases in the parish of Arley have been abated by exchange of houses arranged by the Colliery Company and others in all parts of the district have found their own better accommodation or have gone away without trace.

#### RE-HOUSING.

My final report on re-housing requirements for the present slum clearance programme and for overcrowding, prepared at the end of the year, showed that of 207 unfit houses dealt with :

- 14 had been repaired.
- 21 were void at time of action.
- 3 the single occupant died.
- 25 found own fresh accommodation.
- 13 had been rehoused.
- 5 were to be rehoused by landlords and
- 126 by the Council.

Six of these 126 are to be re-housed in existing Council houses, leaving 120 for whom houses are to be built. To this number must be added houses for 34 cases of overcrowding, 12 additional houses authorised on various sites and 28 dwellings for aged persons.

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I am indebted to Mr. Oldham, additional sanitary inspector, for his willing assistance at all times (and particularly in relation to meat inspection and survey of unfit houses) and to Mr. C. F. Underwood, clerk, for his care of the office records.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. KENYON,

Sanitary Inspector

Coleshill,

18th June, 1938.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.  
MERIDAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
1937.

**STAFF.**

H. PICKERING, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., A.R.San.I.,  
Engineer and Surveyor,  
Inspector under Petroleum Acts,  
Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

H. MOSSOP, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.,  
Engineering Assistant.

C. A. BUNTING,  
Junior Assistant.

A. O. ELIAS,  
Draughtsman.

L. W. B. BEST,  
Building Inspector.

R. S. CASWELL,  
Clerk.

J. J. LILLEY,  
Junior Clerk.

TO THE MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1937.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following Water Mains Extensions have been sanctioned during the year, together with the provision of additional fire hydrants in many cases :—

Parish.		Situation.	Size.	Yards.	Hyd- rants.
Bickenhill	..	Coventry Road ..	15in. ..	1,257 ..	—
Castle		Hazelhurst and	4in. ..	4,102 ..	2
Bromwich		Hawthorn Roads	6in. ..	337 ..	1
Do.	..	Chester, Hall and Bradford Roads and School Lane	24in. ..	1,143 ..	—
Do.	..	Bradford and Chester Roads .. ..	6in. ..	385 ..	1
Do.		Estate Roads,	4in. ..	358 ..	2
		Whateley Hall ..	6in. ..	295 ..	1
Do.	..	Hazelhurst Road ..	4in. ..	150 ..	1
Do.	..	Bradford Road ..	6in. ..	76 ..	1
			4in. ..	173 ..	—
Do.	..	Manor Park and Marlborough Roads	6in. ..	207 ..	1
			4in. ..	60 ..	—



Parish.	Situation.	Size	Yards.	Hyd- rants.
Bromwich	Bradford Road	6in.	127	1
Do.	Yew Tree Road	4in.	80	—
	Windleaves Road	4in.	109	1
	Elmfield Road	4in.	528	2
	Hawthorn Road	4in.	112	1
	Wyckham Road	6in.	92	—
Coleshill	Maxstoke Lane	4in.	20	—
Do.	Doris and Rose Roads	4in.	187	1
Do.	Chester Road	4in.	287	2
Do.	Do.	4in.	700	3
Fillongley	Fillongley Lane	4in.	685	3
Do.	Do.	4in.	103	1
Nether Whitacre	Hoggrills End Lane and Station Road	4in.	558	1
Over Whitacre	Atherstone-Coleshill Road, Furnace End	4in.	59	—
Shustoke	Station Road	4in.	240	2

When the Public Health Act, 1936, came into force on the 1st October 1937, certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, ceased to be issued. Up to this time, however, 188 had been issued.

BUILDINGS, ETC., FOR WHICH PLANS WERE DEPOSITED  
IN 1937.

PARISH.	Houses.	Bungalows.	Alterations & Conversions.	Other Buildings.	Lay-outs, Drains, etc.	TOTAL.
Allesley	11	9	1	9	—	30
Arley	—	4	—	3	—	7
Astley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balsall	3	2	2	7	1	15
Barston	1	—	—	4	—	5
Berkswell	6	2	1	8	—	17
Bickenhill	21	—	1	14	6	42
Castle Bromwich	232	4	1	29	—	266
Coleshill	93	—	1	17	3	114
Corley	3	1	—	6	—	10
Curdworth	7	—	—	1	—	8
Fillongley	25	2	1	6	—	34
Hampton-in-Arden	12	1	3	6	—	22
Keresley	1	1	2	4	—	8
Lea Marston	—	—	—	2	—	2
Maxstoke	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meriden	10	1	4	6	1	22
Great Packington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Packington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shustoke	1	3	—	5	1	10
Water Orton	3	—	—	2	2	7
Nether Whitacre	10	—	1	5	—	16
Over Whitacre	1	—	—	1	—	2
Wishaw	2	—	—	1	—	3
Totals	442	30	18	137	14	641

Table showing building progress :—

HOUSES AND BUNGALOWS.						No.
Year						
1919	..	..	..	..	..	10
1922	..	..	..	..	..	55
1925	..	..	..	..	..	222
1928	..	..	..	..	..	243
1929	..	..	..	..	..	199
1930	..	..	..	..	..	244
1931	..	..	..	..	..	233
1932	..	..	..	..	..	127
1933	..	..	..	..	..	190
1934	..	..	..	..	..	217
1935	..	..	..	..	..	267
1936	..	..	..	..	..	282
1937	..	..	..	..	..	258

#### SEWERAGE.

The following sewers were constructed during 1937 :—

	Size.	Length.
Extension, Chester Road, Bacons End, Coleshill ..	6in. dia.	398yds.
Do. Birmingham Road, Bacons End, Coleshill	6in. dia.	241yds.
Do. Chester Road, Castle Bromwich ..	6in. dia.	64yds.
Do. Bradford Road, Castle Bromwich ..	6in. dia.	37yds.

A scheme for the construction of sewers and a sewage disposal works at Balsall Common (parts of Balsall and Berkswell Parishes) was submitted to the Ministry of Health, and an Inquiry was held on the 27th October, 1937. Sanction to proceed with the scheme is withheld until agreements to contribute towards the cost are entered into by various landowners whose properties will benefit by the new service. Should sufficient landowners not be agreeable to contribute, it is probable that the scheme submitted may have to be curtailed. The Ministry of Health definitely suggest that a temporary broad irrigation treatment for the sewage be substituted for the permanent works originally proposed, on account of the probable construction of a Blythe Valley Trunk Sewer in the near future, which sewer would render any disposal works unnecessary.

A scheme for the construction of additional sewers in Meriden and for the temporary enlargement of the sewage disposal works was prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health. These sewers will also be connected to the Blythe Valley Sewer when constructed.

A scheme for the construction of 350 lineal yards of 6 inch diameter sewer and a small sewage disposal works to serve 24 houses in Ansley Lane, Arley, was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health. The scheme is necessary on account of the settlement of a length of existing sewer due to mining subsidence.

A scheme for the laying of a new sewer in High Street, Keresley, was prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health. Sanction to proceed was received early this present year (1938), and, at the time of writing the work has just been completed. The new sewer, laid at a greater depth than an old shallow one, which has been superseded, will allow for the drainage of all premises some of which could not previously be drained.

#### SCAVENGING.

Fourteen Parishes and the portion of Knowle which was added to Balsall, are now scavenged. Arley and Keresley have weekly collections, Over Whitacre monthly, and the remainder fortnightly.

Arley, Keresley and Water Orton schemes are carried out by contract, the remainder being done by direct labour with the Council's own men and plant.

The following table gives an analysis of the work done during the year :—

Parish	Refuse moved (loads)	Ashpits emptied.	Pails emptied.
Arley .. .. .	947	94	4,489
Balsall .. .. .	51	—	875
Bickenhill .. .. .	587	—	—
Castle Bromwich .. .. .	619	—	876
Coleshill .. .. .	1,079	—	5,775
Corley .. .. .	217	—	6,602
Curdworth .. .. .	93	—	180
Fillongley .. .. .	338	—	5,439
Hampton-in-Arden .. .. .	477	—	2,571
Keresley .. .. .	311	1	—
Meridan .. .. .	343	—	—
Shustoke .. .. .	109	—	1,794
Water Orton .. .. .	159	651	468
Nether Whitacre .. .. .	135	—	6,068
Over Whitacre .. .. .	67	—	—
Totals ..	5,532	746	35,137

#### PETROLEUM.

Licences to store petroleum number 89, and carbide of calcium 3. They are distributed as follows :—

Allesley 5, Arley 3, Balsall 11, Barston 2, Berkswell 6, Bickenhill 6, Castle Bromwich 6, Coleshill 16, Corley 1 (Carbide 1), Curdworth 5, Fillongley 4 (Carbide 1), Hampton-in-Arden 5, Keresley 3, Lea Marston 3, Meriden 2, Shustoke 1, Water Orton 2, Nether Whitacre 5, Over Whitacre 2 (Carbide 1), and Wishaw 1.

#### AMBULANCE.

(FOR NON-INFECTIOUS CASES).

During the year, 236 calls were received, of which 109 were for road accidents, 19 for accidents at work, and 108 for other cases. Of these calls, 209 were carried out by your own Ambulance, 23 by your Ambulance and Fire Brigade Tender, and 4 by the Solihull Urban District Council's Ambulances.

The growing usefulness of the Ambulance Service is shown by the following table :—

Year.	Road Accidents				Other Cases.	Total.	Mileage.
	Accidents.	at Work.					
1930 .. (May-Dec.)	55	—	..	38	..	93	2,246
1931 ..	41	—	..	66	..	107	2,797
1932 ..	57	—	..	75	..	132	3,526
1933 ..	76	—	..	84	..	160	4,198
1934 ..	67	—	..	84	..	151	3,919
1935 ..	69	16	..	95	..	180	4,638
1936 ..	102	22	..	79	..	203	5,184
1937 ..	109	19	..	108	..	236	5,731



## RE-HOUSING.

During 1937 six 3-bedroom type houses were erected in Hall Walk, Coleshill, making a total of fourteen Council houses now in that road.

A site was purchased in Fillongley Lane (Sandy Lane), Fillongley, for the erection of twenty 3-bedroom type and two 4-bedroom type houses, and these are now (1938) in course of construction. Eight were completed and occupied in May.

Further schemes which have been prepared and are in progress at the time of writing are :—

Castle Bromwich	..	..	12 3-bedroom type houses.
			2 4- do. do.
			4 aged persons bungalows.
			—
			18 total.
			—
Meriden	..	..	4 3-bedroom type houses.
			2 4- do. do.
			—
			6 total.
			—
Nether Whitacre	..	..	4 3-bedroom type houses.
			2 4- do. do.
			—
			6 total.
			—
Lea Marston	..	..	2 3-bedroom type houses.
			4 4- do. do.
			—
			6 total.
			—

The following schemes are either in course of preparation at the time of writing or will be carried out shortly :—

Shustoke. (Site acquired)	..	2 aged persons bungalows.
		2 4-bedroom type houses.
		5 3- do. do.
		—
		9 total.
		—
Maxstoke. (Site acquired)	..	4 aged persons bungalows.
		—

(The above two schemes have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval).

Arley (Ansley Lane Site)	..	4 aged persons bungalows.
		—
Arley (Gun Hill Site)	..	4 do. do.
		—
Arley (Hill Top Site)	..	4 do. do.
		—
Balsall (Needler's End Lane)	..	2 do. do.
		6 3-bedroom type houses.
		—
		8 total.
		—
Coleshill (Onions Field Site)	..	60 various.
		—



Hampton-in-Arden (Marsh Lane	2 4-bedroom type houses.
Site) .. .. .	12 3- do. do.
	2 aged persons bungalows.
	—
	16 total.
	—
Meriden (Lays Lane Site) ..	3 aged persons bungalows.
	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. PICKERING,  
Engineer and Surveyor.

TOWN HALL,  
COLESHILL,  
BIRMINGHAM.  
28th June, 1938.

TABLE I.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1937.

			Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	1076	12	159	147
Lodging Houses	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	31	—	—	—
Cow Sheds	...	...	269	—	25	25
Bakehouses	...	...	32	—	—	1
Slaughter Houses	...	...	665	—	—	—
Canal Boats	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	25	—	25	25
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	2	—	2	2
Water-closets	...	...	—	—	—	—
House Drainage	...	...	52	3	49	52
Water Supply	...	...	12	5	7	12
Pigsties	...	...	3	—	3	3
Animals improperly kept...	...	...	1	—	1	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	76	5	71	76
Various Inspections	...	...	457	—	—	—
New Buildings	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	2701	25	342	344

					No.
Drain tests: Other than Water	...	...	...	...	12
Unwholesome Meat condemned	...	...	...	...	211
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk)	...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	29
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	14

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	3
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	157
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1931	17,400	289	15.6	16	55	193	10.4
1932	25,250	413	17.6	28	68	263	11.2
1933	25,630	397	15.4	17	43	246	9.6
1934	26,220	422	16.0	27	64	302	11.5
1935	26,680	443	16.6	19	43	272	10.2
1936	27,090	473	17.5	20	42	280	10.4
1937	27,540	464	16.9	21	45	294	10.7

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1937.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1937  
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

				Live Births.	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	14.9	0.6	12.4	58	
125 Great Towns, including London			14.9	0.67	12.5	62	
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	15.3	0.64	11.9	55	
London	...	...	13.3	0.54	12.3	60	



TABLE III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.  
 CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
 YEAR 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.									Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.									
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.			
Small-pox ... ..											
Plague ... ..											
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	98	1	19	54	11	6	3	.....	86	7	
Erysipelas ... ..	19	.....	1	.....	.....	6	7	5	.....		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	46	1	11	20	8	6	.....	.....	38	2	
Typhus Fever ... ..											
Enteric Fever ... ..											
Pneumonia ... ..	57	2	8	10	6	4	11	16	.....	15	
Malaria ... ..											
Dysentery ... ..											
Puerperal Fever... ..										1	
,, Pyrexia ... ..	4	.....		.....	2	2	.....				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis											
Poliomyelitis ... ..											
Encephalitis Lethargica											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1									
Polio-Encephalitis ...											
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	.....	.....	.....	6	11	3	.....	.....	9	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	.....	.....	1	2	3	.....	.....	.....	3	
Totals ... ..	251	5	39	75	35	38	34	21	124	37	

TABLE IV.  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	157	137
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...		
2 Measles ... ..		
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..		2
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1
5 Diphtheria ... ..	4	3
6 Influenza ... ..	4	8
7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..		
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	5
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	1	2
11 Syphilis ... ..	1	1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..		
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	25	20
14 Diabetes ... ..	2	1
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	5	12
16 Heart Disease ... ..	29	19
17 Aneurysm ... ..		
18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	5	4
19 Bronchitis ... ..	5	6
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	7	8
21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	3
22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1	2
24 Appendicitis ... ..	3	
25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..		
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..	3	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	7	2
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	6	5
29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..		1
30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..		
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ... ..	5	4
32 Senility ... ..	6	12
33 Suicide ... ..	1	
34 Other Violence ... ..	15	6
35 Other Defined Diseases ... ..	13	9
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown ...		







